

May 13, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food & Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

6400 '99 MAY 24 P159

Docket #98N-1038

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to you in protest to the elimination of labeling for irradiated foods! Irradiated foods are very risky for our already waning health, killing enzymes, causing loss of vitamins, especially Vitamin C & Vit. A, beta carotene & B Vitamins so necessary for good body function. Not only that, radiation damages the basic molecular structure of the food, creating free radicals, that can further threaten the stability of molecules, causing body deterioration & aging. The total effect of this irradiation has not been tested on animals or humans, yet you want us to purchase irradiated foods by illminating the only safe-guard we have left, that is the label warning those who are aware of its dangers!

In view of the above facts, the alternative terms "cold Pasteurization" or "Electronic pasteurization" are totally misleading & an insult to intelligent people who care about their lives! Under any deceptive name, irradiation is still not acceptable! Irradiated foods should be required to show a large, quickly identified label as well as the already used "radura" symbol, to indicate to everyone that this food is irradiated!

We require labels on Cigarettes & Liquor which are both harmful to our health & that of unborn babies. The absence of a proper label & Radura on radiated food would be harmful & misleading, since not everyone is well enough informed to know that radiation not only destroys vitamins, enzymes, etc. and causes changes in detecting spoilage that is not obvious to the consumer. But also, all individually irradiated components of a food should required to be identified & labeled, as well.

It is no wonder that many states have banned irradiation altogether, and rightly so! To try & force this irradiated food on the market shelves without labeling is to add insult to an already unacceptable process that takes away our free choice, threatens the health of the informed as well as the UNinformed consumer, especially jeopardizes pregnant women, little babies, the elderly & the sick! We all agree, we need fresher, more nutritious & cleaner food, but to go this route of UNlabeled irradiated food is suicide!

I will not ever buy or consume food that I know has been radiated! If proper labeling is discontinued, we will buy our food only from sources we know will not market that kind of produce, or will go to raising ALL of our food at home, if need be, rather than further risk our health at the hands of these Radiation Profiteers!

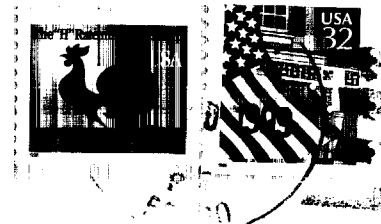
Sincerely,

Dorothy Jensen

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oup.



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